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13 AUG 1965

**DOD & NRO REVIEWS COMPLETED**

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Cy:

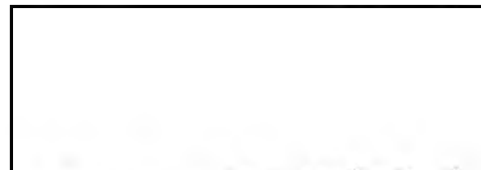
I have signed and am returning a proposed NRO agreement which conforms in almost all respects to the draft which you discussed with John Bross on 6 August. I have made some very minor editorial changes in the interest of uniformity. For example, the word "will" is used throughout as a replacement for the word "shall" which appeared in portions of the earlier versions of the document.

The only change of any substance is the proposal to limit the membership of the Executive Committee to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence and the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. This seems to fit the national character of this organization and is in agreement with what I believe are your views on its non-alignment to any Agency or Service. Accordingly, I propose the reintroduction of the language of an earlier draft which provides that the Executive Committee is established to "guide and participate in the formulation of the NRP through the DNRO. The DNRO will sit with the Executive Committee but will not be a voting member." If you feel strongly that the DNRO should be an actual member of the Committee, I should be glad to give it further consideration.

The only other change which I should like to propose and have tentatively included in the new agreement is a new sentence

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**OSD HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION  
AND RELEASE.**



OSD review(s)  
completed.

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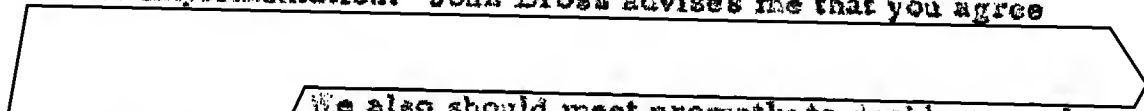
to go at the end of paragraph D.1.d. With the addition of this sentence, the concluding portion of this paragraph would read as follows (new sentence underlined):

The engineering development of all other subsystems, including spacecraft, reentry vehicles, boosters and booster interface subsystems shall in general be assigned to an Air Force component, recognizing, however, that sensors, spacecraft and reentry vehicles are integral components of a system, the development of which must proceed on a fully coordinated basis, with a view to ensuring optimum system development in support of intelligence requirements for overhead reconnaissance. To optimize the primary objective of systems development, design requirement of the sensors will be given priority in their integration within the spacecraft and reentry vehicles.

I believe that specific guidance along these lines will be extremely helpful for the purpose of ensuring smooth working relationships in the development and integration of the over-all payload.

If this agreement meets with your approval, I suggest that we meet at an early date to discuss any questions relating to its implementation. John Bross advises me that you agree

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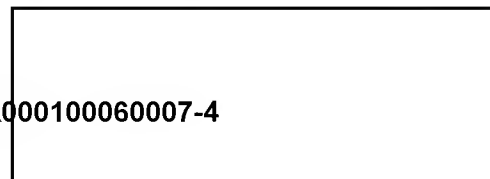


We also should meet promptly to decide on a plan for the orderly administration of the various contracts relating to the new general search system in the light of the recommendations of the Land Panel report.

I firmly believe that this agreement will set the stage for harmonious and effective collaboration for the future in the National Reconnaissance Program. The importance of this program.

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to the national security cannot be exaggerated and you have my assurance that I will take appropriate action to see that all personnel under my control who are concerned with this program in the future will give it their full and unqualified support. I am confident that if a fully cooperative attitude can be developed and maintained on the part of all components and individuals associated with the program, it will have the successes which its importance deserves.

Sincerely,

[(signed)] W. F. Raborn

W. F. Raborn  
Director

Attachment

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JABROSS: ☐ (11/8/65)

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